Blessed are the Peacemakers

March 11,2024 Jason Andujar was driving down West Lincoln Avenue, when a grey Chevy pulled up next to him at a red light.

The interaction turned sour quickly, with Andujar saying in Spanish)recorded by his dash cam, "What’s the problem? Why are you talking?... Yeah, and your mother too.”

The exchange lasted about a minute before the light turned green. Andujar then pulled out a gun and fired three shots at the truck through his window before speeding off.

His front-facing dash cam also recorded him weaving in and out of traffic, illegally passing a school bus on a double-lined road, and using the bike lane to pass other vehicles, nearly hitting them.

West Allis police caught up with Andujar about three hours later during a traffic stop and brought him to the station for questioning.

Andujar admitted to the shooting but said he fired because he believed the other driver had a gun stating, "He pulls it out, and I'm like 'Ok, we can go right here,'" Andujar said in the interrogation room.

When asked where the other driver had pulled the gun from, Andujar said, "He already had it…it must have been in his lap." His story was a complete fabrication proven by his own dash cam.

With the evidence from his dash cam, Andujar was charged with recklessly endangering safety. A jury found him guilty in May of 2025.

He was sentenced to 4 years in prison and 3 years of supervision. He is currently serving his sentence at the New Lisbon Correctional Institution in New Lisbon, Wisconsin.

What did Andujar gain from this encounter. He lost time and money is court, and lost four years of his to prison. This loss of time and resources was very avoidable. Simply ignoring the person in the other vehicle would have preserved the years of his life he lost.

Had his dash cam shown that his life was legitimately in danger then escalating the situation would have been not only justified but necessary to preserve loss of life, health and property. In that situation there would be a net positive to escalate the conflict. But nearly all of our interactions that involve sudden unexpected conflict do not have a positive return of interest no matter the out come.

Matthew 5:9 NASBS
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

This is the seventh Beatitude in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). It sits in the heart of the kingdom ethic: not passive politeness, but active, costly peacemaking that mirrors the character of the Father. In a world where conflict feels like the default setting (from Genesis 3 onward), Jesus pronounces blessing on those who swim upstream to reconcile, heal, and build.

Peacemakers are not weak, they are the true sons and daughters of God. They pay the high price of conflict's alternative, reject its root causes, and choose the hard, supernatural work of building peace instead. When they do, the world sees the family resemblance of their Father.

The Spiritual Reality Behind All Human Conflict

Let me ask you a question that cuts straight to the heart of why peace feels so hard to achieve in our world. Why does conflict seem like the default setting for humanity? From the moment someone cuts you off in traffic and your blood pressure spikes, to family arguments that escalate over nothing, to nations locked in wars that drag on for generations, why do we so quickly turn against one another? The answer is not primarily political, economic, or even psychological. There is a deeper spiritual reality at work, and once you see it, everything in your life and in history starts to make sense.

It all begins with the authority God gave us at creation. Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"

God created humanity to be the legal rulers of this earth. Adam exercised that dominion right away when he named the animals in Genesis 2:19. But then a catastrophic transfer of power happened in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve chose to believe the serpent's lie instead of God's clear command, thus they legally handed that authority over to Satan. They elevated Satan's word above God's Word, and the consequences were immediate and cosmic.

This is why, centuries later, Satan could stand before Jesus and make this bold claim in Luke 4:6, "And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.'" Satan was not lying about the legal transfer. He had become the god of this world through humanity's choice.

Satan's original plan was to force God to fulfill His promises that Adam and Eve would die if they were to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Thus once Satan gained authority to rule the earth, God would destroy the only other legal rulers of this universe, leaving Satan as the only legal claimant to our universe. To thwart Satan's plan God decided that Adam and Eve would die in time, thus humanity would continue to counter claim Satan's authority. Satan's goal has never changed. He needs to destroy the human race so he can rule this earth without competition. He almost succeeded

before the flood by corrupting humanity so completely that God had to intervene with judgment. But after the flood, God established a covenant with Noah that changed the game forever. Genesis 9:9-17 records that covenant, complete with the rainbow as its sign, promising never again to destroy the earth with water. That protection came at a heavy cost to us.

Humanity's lifespan was dramatically reduced from nearly a thousand years down to 120 years. Genesis 6:3 says, "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh, nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.'" This reduction was genetically passed down through generations, as we see in the shortening lifespans recorded in Genesis 11. It was the price we paid so that Satan could no longer so easily provoke God into wiping out mankind. Our shorter lives became a legal restraint built into the system to protect us from total destruction.

Since God driven annihilation became impossible for Satan, he changed his strategy. He now drives humanity toward self-destruction through constant conflict and war. He keeps us trapped in an endless cycle where we develop better defenses, then better offensive weapons, then even stronger defenses, always finding new reasons to fight, divide, and destroy one another. This is exactly what we see in the heartbreaking story of 2 Samuel 2:13-16, where young men from opposing armies grabbed each other by the head and thrust their swords into each other's sides. All twenty-four died in an instant, and no one gained anything. That kind of impulsive, pointless violence towards self-eradication is Satan's goal and celebration.

This spiritual reality explains everything from your micro-level frustrations to the macro-level disasters of history. Every time you feel the urge to escalate over a minor insult, every family feud, every tribal clash, and every international war has this same root. Conflict is not just fallen human nature. It is Satan's primary strategy to eliminate God's image-bearers from the earth and secure his rule.

And this is precisely why Jesus pronounces such a powerful blessing in Matthew 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Peacemakers are not weak or passive. They are actively resisting the enemy's main agenda for this world. When you choose de-escalation over retaliation, when you absorb the cost of an insult instead of returning fire, when you work to reconcile a broken relationship instead of letting it fester, you are doing the very work that marks you as a true son or daughter of your Father. You are pushing back against the spiritual force that wants us to destroy each other.

War may feel like the natural state of a fallen world, but peace is achieved only when a few people work hard to resist the spiritual current pulling us toward destruction. Every time you choose the costly path of peacemaking, you are not just avoiding trouble. You are participating in the family business of your Father, the original Peacemaker.

So here is the question each of us must answer today. Will we keep cooperating with Satan's strategy of self-destruction, or will we join God in the hard, supernatural work of making peace? The choice you make in the small moments, the traffic cut-off, the bumped shoulder in the mall, the family disagreement, will reveal whose side you are really on. And when you choose peace, the world will see the family resemblance. They will call you sons of God.

The Active Fight for Peace: Overcoming the Threefold Cord

Now let me show you what this looks like in real life, on the world stage. One of the clearest examples in modern history of peacemakers pushing back against Satan's strategy of conflict happened in 1898 during the Fashoda Incident in Sudan.

At that time, Britain and France were both racing to claim territory across Africa. Each empire wanted to win the scramble for resources, land, and strategic control. It was in Britain's interest to secure the Nile and protect its route to India. It was in France's interest to build a continuous chain of colonies from the Atlantic to the Red Sea. Both sides were driven by raw self-interest.
Add to that the pride of national honor. Neither wanted to look weak or be seen as the loser in front of the world. And beneath it all was deep fear, fear that the other power would grow too strong and leave them vulnerable in a future war. Historian Donald Kagan, in his book On the Origins of War, explains that these three forces, fear, pride, and self-interest, form the classic threefold cord that has started countless conflicts throughout history. When those three twist together, war feels almost inevitable.

And that is exactly what almost happened at Fashoda. A small French force under Major Jean-Baptiste Marchand had planted their flag at the remote outpost. Soon after, a much larger British force led by General Horatio Kitchener arrived. Tensions skyrocketed. Guns were loaded. Cables flew back and forth between Paris and London. The newspapers in both countries stirred up patriotic fury. Everything was in place for another European war over African soil.
But two men chose a different path.

Lord Kitchener, the British commander on the ground, had the clear military advantage. He could have forced the French to retreat at gunpoint. Instead, he showed remarkable restraint. He treated the French officers with respect, shared supplies, and refused to escalate. At the same time, Théophile Delcassé, the French foreign minister back in Paris, worked tirelessly behind the scenes. He absorbed political pressure from his own people who wanted France to stand firm. He negotiated, compromised, and kept cooler heads in charge. Both men actively fought for peace when every natural instinct and every political pressure was screaming for conflict.

The result? France withdrew peacefully. Britain and France avoided war. And just six years later, in 1904, the two nations signed the Entente Cordiale, a friendship agreement that became the foundation of their alliance against Germany in World War I. What could have been a devastating colonial war became the beginning of one of the most important partnerships in modern history.

Think about what happened spiritually in that moment. Fear, pride, and self-interest had twisted into a threefold cord that was ready to pull both nations into destruction. Satan's strategy was in full motion. But two peacemakers stepped into the gap, absorbed the cost, swallowed national pride, and chose restraint. They refused to cooperate with the spiritual current dragging the world toward more death and division.

This is exactly what Jesus was talking about when He said in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Kitchener and Delcassé were not perfect men, and this was not a gospel moment. But in that single decision they showed the family resemblance. They proved that peace is not the absence of tension. It is the presence of people willing to do the hard, costly work of resisting the enemy's agenda.

And here is the powerful truth for us today. The same threefold cord that almost started a war in Africa is still at work in our lives. When someone cuts you off in traffic, self-interest says, "My time is more important." Pride says, "No one disrespects me like that." Fear says, "If I let this go, I'll look weak." Those three forces twist together in seconds, and suddenly road rage feels justified.

But you have a choice. You can cooperate with the spiritual strategy of destruction, or you can become a peacemaker who breaks the cord. Every time you choose to de-escalate, to absorb the insult, to reconcile instead of retaliate, you are doing exactly what Kitchener and Delcassé did on a global scale. You are actively fighting for peace.

And when you do, the world notices something different about you. They see the family resemblance. They may not have words for it, but they sense it. You carry the DNA of your Father, the Prince of Peace.

So the question Jesus is asking each of us right now is simple. Will you keep feeding the threefold cord of fear, pride, and self-interest that Satan uses to destroy? Or will you join the active fight for peace and be recognized as a true son of God? The small moments are where the battle is won. Choose peace today.

Biblical Models: Peacemakers Who Paid the Price

But peacemaking does not only happen on the world stage between nations. Some of the most powerful examples are found in the pages of Scripture, where real people faced very personal decisions and chose to pay the price for peace instead of giving in to conflict.

Let us look at three powerful models from the Bible, starting with Abraham and Lot.

After Abraham and his nephew Lot became very wealthy, their herdsmen began to fight over grazing land. The situation was tense and headed for a major family split. Abraham had every right to pull rank. He was the elder and the head of the clan. He could have demanded the best land for himself. Instead, he made a radical decision. Genesis 13:8-9 records the entire exchange: “So Abram said to Lot, ‘Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you go to the left, then I will go to the right, or if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.’”

Abraham swallowed his pride and set aside his self-interest. He gave Lot first choice and took whatever was left. That decision cost him the best pastureland in the short term. But it preserved the family and protected their witness to the surrounding nations. Abraham broke the threefold cord of fear, pride, and self-interest, and peace prevailed.

Next we see another powerful peacemaker in one of the most dangerous situations imaginable. Her name was Abigail.

Her husband Nabal had foolishly insulted David and his men after they had protected his shepherds. David was furious and was marching with four hundred armed men to destroy every male in Nabal’s household. The situation

was about to explode into bloodshed. Abigail did not wait for her husband to fix it. She took immediate action. She gathered food and gifts, rode out to meet David, and took full responsibility on herself. 1 Samuel 25:24 says, “She fell at his feet and said, ‘On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant.’”

Abigail risked her own life and reputation to stand in the gap. She absorbed the tension and talked David down from revenge. Because of her courage, an entire household was spared, and David was kept from committing a terrible act of violence that would have stained his future kingship. Abigail paid a real price in personal risk, but her peacemaking saved lives and honored God.

Finally, consider Moses, perhaps the greatest peacemaker in the Old Testament.

Moses constantly stood in the middle of two raging parties, Israel and God. Time after time the people rebelled, complained, and wanted to stone him. Yet Moses repeatedly interceded for them when God was ready to judge. One of the most dramatic moments is recorded in Exodus 32:11-13. After the golden calf incident, God told Moses He would destroy the people and start over with him. Moses replied with these powerful words: “Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said, ‘O Lord, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, “With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth”? Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about doing harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, “I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.”’”
Moses was willing to risk his own standing and advancement with God to plead for a rebellious people. He absorbed the anger and tension again and again so that Israel could survive. That is costly peacemaking.

Each of these three, Abraham, Abigail, and Moses, refused to let fear, pride, or self-interest pull them into the cycle of destruction. They chose the harder road. They paid a price. And in doing so they looked like their Father.

This is exactly the kind of peacemaking Jesus had in mind when He declared in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

These were not weak people. They were strong enough to resist the spiritual current that wants us to destroy one another. And the same choice is in front

of every one of us today in the small moments of life.

What Everyone Can Do: A Simple Tool That Changes Everything

So far we have seen the spiritual reality behind conflict, the high cost when we give in to it, and the powerful examples of peacemakers who refused to play along. Now the question is practical. What can every single person in this room actually do starting today to become the kind of peacemaker Jesus blesses?

Here is a simple, repeatable tool that works in the traffic jam, the family argument, the workplace tension, or even the international crisis. Before you respond to any situation that feels like conflict is coming, pause and run a quick cost-benefit analysis. Ask yourself three clear questions. What will this cost me in time, money, relationships, health, or reputation? What real benefit will I actually gain? And is the benefit worth the cost?

This one practice does three powerful things that directly break the threefold cord of fear, pride, and self-interest.

First, it immediately removes your emotions from the equation. Emotions cloud judgment and hinder good decision making. When someone cuts you off in traffic or bumps into you at the mall, anger or pride can take over in seconds. But when you force yourself to run the numbers first, you step back and think instead of react. You give the Holy Spirit room to speak. James 1:19-20 says it plainly, “This you know, my beloved brethren, but everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.” A calm cost-benefit analysis keeps you from handing the moment over to emotions that Satan loves to exploit.

Second, it forces you to evaluate the tangible assets that are actually at risk in any situation. You stop and ask, “What really matters to me right now, and am I willing to put it on the line?” Maybe it is your safety, your job, your marriage, your freedom, or your witness. When you get clear on what is truly valuable, you become protective of what matters most instead of throwing it away in a moment of pride or fear. In the Fashoda Incident, Kitchener looked at the assets on the table, British lives, French lives, and the real possibility of a larger war, and decided the benefit of forcing a fight was not worth the cost. The same clarity works in your life. You suddenly realize that winning an argument with your spouse might cost you the relationship you value most. That realization alone often ends the conflict before it starts.

Third, it optimizes your decision-making process to give yourself and those around you the best possible outcomes. Instead of reacting on autopilot and

letting fear, pride, or self-interest drive the car, you choose the path that actually builds something lasting. You shift from Command & Conquer mode to SimCity mode. You start building instead of battling. And here is the beautiful part. When you consistently choose the higher net gain, you start to look like your Father. You become known as someone who brings peace instead of drama.

There is one important nuance. This tool is not about avoiding every conflict. If someone's life is truly in danger, your own or someone else's, then intervention or defense becomes the wise choice because the cost of doing nothing is far higher. The cost-benefit analysis still works there. It simply shows you that protection is the right investment. But in the other ninety-nine percent of daily situations, insults, disagreements, petty offenses, the analysis almost always points the same direction. De-escalation and peacemaking produce the only real net gain.

So here is your assignment this week. The next time tension rises, whether it is at home, at work, on the road, or online, stop for ten seconds and run the analysis out loud in your mind. "What will this cost? What will I actually gain? Is it worth it?" Then choose the path of peace. You will be shocked how quickly the threefold cord loses its grip.

And when you do this consistently, something supernatural happens. People notice. They may not understand why you are different, but they feel it. You carry the family resemblance. You start to hear the words of Jesus fulfilled in your own life. Matthew 5:9 says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

This is not theory. This is the practical way ordinary people join God in the active fight for peace. Start today. Run the numbers. Choose peace. And watch the blessing of being called a son of God unfold in your life.